

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC023636
Inspection date	18/03/2013
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for 10 children who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a charitable organisation.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good progress**.

At the last inspection in June 2012, the home was judged outstanding for overall effectiveness. There were no requirements or recommendations.

The home continues to provide an excellent standard of care for children with complex individual needs. Experienced managers and well supported and trained staff identify children's specific needs. Detailed care plans clearly outline support strategies which effectively guide staff in assisting children to achieve positive outcomes. Children are fully involved in their care planning process and in the review of their progress towards their personal goals. This ensures staff take into account children's views and wishes and provide opportunities for children to thrive.

Children make excellent progress in education and pursue a healthy life style. Within a stable, secure and nurturing environment, children develop beneficial relationships with staff. Children's relationships and attachments with their key workers are particularly strong, enabling them to trust the adults who care for them and gain a positive self-view.

The home provides a safe, stable and secure therapeutic environment for children.

Robust risk assessments with individualised risk intervention measures are regularly reviewed and updated. This ensures children are receiving support based on their current needs, which helps promote their well-being. Behaviour management plans, compiled within the framework of the home's clinical therapeutic model, demonstrate analytical and thoughtful approaches to supporting children when they experience difficulties. Consequently, children begin to develop an understanding of appropriate boundaries, their own coping mechanisms and a sense of emotional resilience.

Measures of control and discipline are thoroughly recorded but the recording of sanctions does not take into account the effectiveness of the use of the measure to help children recognise the impact of their behaviour.

The home has effective monitoring mechanisms in place to maintain a high standard of care and ensure children have optimum opportunities to achieve positive outcomes. Reports of monthly visits, which review the conduct of the home are forwarded to Ofsted. The home's records and practice are monitored regularly by the Registered Manager but reports are not forwarded to Ofsted as required. Consequently, patterns, trends and issues of concern are not clearly identified over a period of time.

Children benefit from a warm, homely and well-maintained home. Recently the kitchen and dining-room have been refurbished to a high standard. Work is continuing to improve the paths outside the property.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17B (2001)	ensure that the use of any measure of control, discipline or restraint in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose of which shall include all the details outlined in points (a) to (i). In particular ensure the written record of sanctions includes the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure (Regulation 17B (3)(f))	30/04/2013
34 (2001)	ensure that the registered person shall supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted for the purpose of monitoring the matters set out in paragraph (1)(a)(b). (Regulation 34 (2))	30/04/2013

About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection*.